

**Developmental Disabilities Council
Consumer Caucus Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2016
Ches Del Restaurant, Port Penn, DE
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Members Present: Joey Merritt, Chair, Barbara Monaghan, Bill Monaghan, Tara Bustard, Laura Green, Karen Gallagher, Carrie Melchisky and Nick.

Staff: Pat Maichle

Guests: Carmen, Lillian

- I. Introduction of Members – Everyone introduced themselves. We had a new guest, Lillian, who will become a Member of the Consumer Caucus.
- II. Approval of Agenda – The Agenda was approved as submitted.
- III. Approval of Minutes – The Minutes were approved as submitted.
- IV. September DDC Meeting – Prepare – Pat reviewed the agenda for the upcoming DDC meeting that will include the annual Election of Officers, a thank you to Steve Tull for his years of service to the DDC, a presentation on the STAND project and a discussion about the importance of voting and the rights that people with disabilities have when attempting to vote. After this discussion, there were no further questions about the meeting.
- V. Budget Process – Pat reminded the Members that this is the time of year that the state departments develop their budgets for the Governor to consider. People with disabilities should voice their needs to the departments now for possible inclusion in the budget. Questions were asked about who to contact. The state departments are listed on the state web site in alphabetical order for people to be able to find the department and the contact information to each.
- VI. Self-Advocacy – Barb and Bill reported on their recent attendance at the Reinventing Quality Conference in Baltimore. They met several great people who can help us in Delaware to move our effort forward. One person in particular was Bill Krebs from PA who has offered to come to DE to assist with the Self Advocacy 101 program that Delaware People First intend to produce. Bill also has a comedy routine that he does and we may be able to use him at a future LIFE Conference or other venue to show his talent. Bill and Barb also attended a workshop on relationships that they thoroughly enjoyed and would like to replicate in DE sometime soon.

- VII. People First – Bill reported that they will be having a teleconference at the next DPF meeting with Lee LaRue from MA concerning next steps for Self-Advocacy 101. They plan to begin to hold classes as soon as the training is complete and a few more trainers.

Also, DPF has gotten a contract from DDDS and Bill, as Treasurer, has a new fiscal invoice form to use for reimbursement of funds for work completed. They also have a new excel spreadsheet to use to be able to report the finances for the organization on a monthly basis. The organization needs also to complete minutes of their meetings each month and to keep a copy in the organization's binder.

- VIII. Strategic Planning – DDC – The new 5-year State Plan is complete and being submitted to AIDD for approval. As Committees begin to meet, the funding decisions will be based on this new Plan. Copies will be provided at the September Council meeting to ensure each Member is aware of the goals and objectives for the Plan.
- IX. Supported Decision-Making – The bill, S.B. #230, was passed by both Houses of the General Assembly and is awaiting signature by the Governor. The Committee that was included in the bill will begin to meet in September to make recommendations to the Department of Health & Social Services. People can begin to use this option for decision making at this point.
- X. Other Business – There was no other business from the Committee except that Joey loves his new job.

The next meeting is planned for November 19, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. at the Ches Del Restaurant.

- XI. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned by 11:30 a.m.